



Gadsden Grotto Newsletter

Volume 16 No. 3

New Member's First Caving Trip

Mark & I, and Mike Davis took a new member of the Gadsden Grotto Brandy Sees on her first caving trip to Green Valley Cave. We went through the entrance and walked under a manmade wooden bridge. Then went through a tight narrow walking passage and chimney our way across the canyon. We then crossed a hole in the floor and went down into a lower level, headed down toward the lake and climbed up into a crawlway in the ceiling of a canyon. We went through a crawlway that leads to the slide room, signed the register and explored the backside of the

cave. We went to the waterfall and took some photos of it. The water was gushing pretty hard that day due to all the rain we had the past several days. Brandy and I got good and soaked in the waterfall while Mark was shooting pictures of us behind the waterfall.

By: Kelly Keener



Inside this issue:

<i>New Member's First Caving Trip</i>	1
<i>Daugette Cave</i>	2
<i>Challenging Trip To The Claw</i>	2
<i>Camping and Caving On Scottsboro Mountain</i>	3
<i>Stephens Gap</i>	3
<i>Fourth Trip To McDill Point Blow Hole</i>	4



Daugette Cave

Mark & I, Brandy Sees, Jim Loftin, and Mike Davis went to Daugette Cave. We crawled through the entrance and ended up into walking passage. We came to a big room and ate lunch. Afterwards we went to look at the beautiful crystals on the ceiling and walls. It looked like a winter wonderland with all the fragile snowflake looking crystals all throughout that area. We took several pictures of all the beauty within this little cave.

Written By: Kelly Keener



The ceiling shines with beauty. The crystals look like snow –flakes, very delicate and fragile.

Challenging Trip to the Claw

Mark & I, and Jim Loftin took Brandy to a **more challenging cave “The Claw.”** Her first caving trip was Green Valley Cave but she wanted to go through a tougher cave, so off we go. We went through the climb down and then crawled through the low crawlway into a small room. We went through the **squeeze and rigged the 17” ft. pit.** Jim repelled down first then Brandy, Mark, and I was the last to go down. After we reached the bottom, we went further into the cave. We went through a climb down and squeezed through a little hole, and then we went through another climb down and squeezed through another little hole up a sandy slope. We then had to climb through more passage until we reached the Apricot Slide which is about a 15-20’ ft. **slide down.** We worked our way to a big passage and then into a big room where the register is. We sat and ate lunch, and then proceeded to go back further into the cave. We walked Through more passage **then crossed over a 15’ ft. pit to the**

other side. We crawled over the Crazy Rock (a large rock that tilts back and forth as you crawl across it.) Then we **climbed up a 20’ ft. wall which headed** back out a different way to the entrance of the cave. Brandy got stuck through a tight squeeze, but she managed to grunt her way through. We had a good day of caving.

By: Kelly Keener



Top Right: Brandy Sees on rope in the claw, Bottom Left: Jim Loftin at the entrance, Bottom Right: Kelly Keener at the top of the first pit.

Camping And Caving In Scottsboro

On Sat. 6-21-03. the Gadsden Grotto took me on my first big cave trip in **Jackson Co. Al. "Tumbling Rock Cave."** We were also leading a Boy Scout Adventure troop. There were 26 of us in all. Michael Ray gave a speech about the history of salt peter and the humidity and temperature inside the cave. We got to the Totem Pole Gallery and ate **lunch, then continued on to the King's Shower.** We all climbed up through a hole with lots of water pouring out of it. I got soaked. It was amazing looking up a **400' ft. topless dome with water fal-**

ling all around it. We all climbed back down and then went to the Christmas Tree formation. Some of the kids were getting cold so we decided to turn around and head back out of the cave. We got outside and went to change into nice clean clothes. Afterwards we went to camp on Scottsboro Mountain. We had a good fire going and a few other cavers that were camping there came and joined us.



Two girls of the Adventure Group having fun.

I met Ryan, Marion Smith, Nathan, Jason, and a couple from Florida. We sat around and talked alot about caving. It was 12pm, and I decided to go to sleep. I had a big day ahead of me. The following day I went to Stephens Gap. Mark, Kelly and Jim repelled down the pit. Then I got to do my first big one. Pipeside Pit. I used the Mitchell System climbing up. It was a great trip for me.
By: Brandy Sees

Stephens Gap

On Sunday morning 6-22-03, we woke up on Scottsboro Mountain. We sat around the camp and talked to Ryan Moran, Jason, and Stephen about us going to Stephens Gap and Pipeside, then everyone left the mountain and went to Breakfast. When we arrived at the parking area, Ryan and his group had already parked their vehicles and headed up the mountain. We hiked up the mountain and on the way up the trail, we noticed that the storms had washed out part of the trail, and where

there had been a 20' ft. sink hole, it is now completely filled up with sand and gravel, but the entrance that was in the sink is still open. After checking out the storm damage, we hiked up the mountain and rigged the pit. Jim, Kelly & I dropped the pit, and we took a few pictures. We headed back down the mountain to Pipeside Pit. We doubled the rope down the pit and Kelly and Jim went down, then Brandy and I rapelled down. Jim rigged Brandy in for her first ascent up the pit using the Mitchell.

By: Mark Medlen



Mark at the lip of Stephens Gap

Fourth Trip To McDill Point Blow Hole

On Sunday 6-15-03, Mark & I, Jim, and Nick went back to survey McDill Point Blow Hole and take photos of the cave, but everything failed. First of all we **had the wrong survey notes, and Jim's camera quit working.** Nick stayed at the entrance chiseling rock so he can make him self fit through the filter. While Mark & I, and Jim were at the **bottom of the 15" ft. drop exploring the rest of the cave,** Nick, knocked a big chunk of rock off the wall and plugged

up the crack where we had to climb back out of to get to entrance. He hammered the rock until it fell. He was then able to fit through the filter. After his third attempt, he finally broke on through to the other side, and repelled down the pit where we were exploring. Nick finally got into the cave he has been wanting to explore. The room in **the cave is about 50' ft. long and 15-20' ft. wide and in some places the ceiling is about 25-30' ft. high. This cave is also**

made up of many different kinds of rock. No limestone.

By: Kelly Keener

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